



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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OPNAVINST 5450.332A
N84
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OPNAV INSTRUCTION 5450.332A

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: MISSION, FUNCTIONS AND TASKS OF COMMANDER, OPERATIONAL
TEST AND EVALUATION FORCE

Ref: (a) 10 U.S.C. §2399
(b) DoD Directive 5000.01 of 12 May 2003
(c) U.S. Navy Regulations, 1990, Section 0311

Encl: (1) COMOPTEVFOR Functions and Tasks

1. Purpose. To delineate Commander, Operational Test and Evaluation Force (COMOPTEVFOR) mission, functions and tasks as directed in references (a) through (c).

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 5450.332.

3. Mission. COMOPTEVFOR shall test and evaluate weapon systems, ships, aircraft and equipment in the anticipated operational environment against the anticipated threat, employing typical operators and maintainers. Additionally, COMOPTEVFOR shall develop and validate initial procedures and tactics for employing these items, and when directed by the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), shall assist developing agencies in the accomplishment of their developmental test and evaluation (DT&E).

4. Status and Command Relationships. COMOPTEVFOR is an operational command under the direction of a commander who reports directly to the CNO. The commander has direct access to the CNO, CNO staff and fleet commanders as necessary to carry out assigned missions.

a. Command Echelon:

(1) CNO

(2) COMOPTEVFOR

b. Regional Coordination: Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic.

5. Commanded, Tenant, Supported and Supporting Activities and Detachments

a. COMOPTEVFOR is the Immediate Superior in Command of: immediate headquarters staff, COMOPTEVFOR Detachment Norfolk, Virginia; COMOPTEVFOR Detachment Dahlgren, Virginia; COMOPTEVFOR Staff Pacific Element San Diego, California; and COMOPTEVFOR Detachment Edwards Air Force Base (AFB), California.

b. COMOPTEVFOR does not host any tenant activities.

c. COMOPTEVFOR supports:

(1) CNO, by providing recommendations for fleet release of new and improved systems and systems under development. This recommendation is based upon an independent evaluation of each system's effectiveness and suitability in achieving its operational requirements.

(2) Systems developers, by providing operational test support for new systems acquisition and improvements. This support may include identifying areas of risk where the system may not achieve its operational requirements and recommendations to proceed to the next acquisition milestone or program review.

(3) Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) for joint test and evaluation (T&E) programs.

(4) OSD for interoperability and information assurance assessments executed in conjunction with combatant commander and service exercises.

(5) Fleet experimentation.

(6) OSD and U.S. Navy science and technology initiatives.

(7) Other services and agencies in accomplishment of their testing and evaluation requirements.

d. COMOPTEVFOR receives general support from:

(1) CNO, who through the Director Innovation, Test and Evaluation, and Technology Requirements (CNO (N84)) provides direction regarding policy, priorities and technical and procedural guidance, as well as financial support for matters relating to the T&E program.

(2) Program managers, who provide financial support for early involvement by operational testers during program development. Early involvement is defined as support for any program-related activity (integrated product team participation, analysis, developmental test assists, etc.) that will not result in a fleet release recommendation by COMOPTEVFOR. Systems commands also provide mission engineering expertise in support of the annual COMOPTEVFOR warfare capability baseline assessment.

(3) Fleet commanders, who provide ship, aircraft and units from their forces to conduct operational tests.

(4) Navy shore activities, which provide information and collaboration through direct liaison with systems commanders for technical matters relating to research, development test and evaluation (RDT&E) programs, with intelligence commands for matters relating to threat definition, and with other shore activities that may support COMOPTEVFOR in accomplishment of the assigned mission.

(5) Other military Services and government agencies, through liaison and information exchange with counterparts in other Services and with other government agencies involved in RDT&E, including science and technology initiatives.

e. COMOPTEVFOR maintains independent authority over the conduct of operational testing on any unit and receives direct support from the following activities:

(1) The command designated to serve as a surface development squadron (SURFDEVRON) or equivalent organization in the planning and conduct of test and evaluation of new and upgraded surface combatants and their systems.

(2) Air Test and Evaluation Squadron ONE (VX-1), and VX-1 detachments in the planning and conduct of test and evaluation of new and upgraded air warfare weapon systems. Additionally, VX-1 develops and publishes the initial tactics supporting employment of these systems.

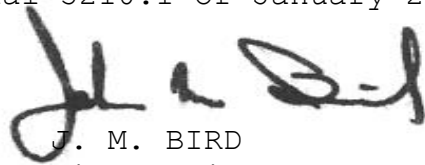
(3) Air Test and Evaluation Squadron NINE (VX-9) and VX-9 detachments in the planning and conduct of test and evaluation of new and upgraded air warfare weapon systems. Additionally, VX-1 develops and publishes the initial tactics supporting employment of these systems.

(4) COMOPTEVFOR Detachment Edwards AFB and Detachment Edwards AFB detachments in the planning and conduct of test and evaluation of new and upgraded F-35C air warfare weapon systems. Additionally, Detachment Edwards AFB develops and publishes the initial tactics supporting employment of these systems.

(5) Any operational units conducting operational testing.

6. Action. COMOPTEVFOR will ensure performance of the functions and tasks contained in enclosure (1).

7. Records Management. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of media and format, shall be managed per Secretary of the Navy Manual 5210.1 of January 2012.



J. M. BIRD
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy
Director, Navy Staff

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COMOPTEVFOR FUNCTIONS AND TASKS

Function. Carry out assigned responsibilities as the Navy's independent operational test and evaluation (OT&E) agency under the command of CNO. Serve as a principal advisor to CNO on all Department of the Navy OT&E matters. The following tasks are assigned:

1. Monitor RDT&E programs conducted within the operating forces and make recommendations to the CNO and fleet commanders to enhance RDT&E program effectiveness.
2. Establish early and continuing liaison with the developing agent to ensure mutual understanding of respective test requirements and plans. Participate in planning all phases of DT&E that may satisfy OT&E objectives and assist in the DT&E efforts. Monitor DT&E and comment on relevant OT&E issues.
3. Review acquisition program documentation to ensure documents are adequate to support a meaningful OT&E program and to provide resolution to critical operational issues. Report documentation adequacy findings to CNO.
4. Plan, conduct and report on all OT&E assigned to Navy. Report on all OT&E directly to CNO and or Vice Chief of Naval Operations as appropriate.
5. Conduct follow-on OT&E to complete deferred testing, verify correction of deficiencies identified from previous testing and finish incomplete and or waived testing. Test and evaluate hardware and software alterations that change system capability (operational effectiveness and suitability), including system upgrades.
6. Develop initial tactics and procedures for employment of new systems that undergo OT&E, or as directed by CNO, through liaison with Commander, Naval Strike Air Warfare Center, SURFDEVRON, and Commander, Submarine Development Squadron Twelve.
7. Coordinate and publish annual Warfare Capability Baseline report of fleet assigned priority operation plan effects chains. Collaborate with capability solution management stakeholders to

provide operational context and detailed mission engineering justification for this horizontal system-of-systems assessment.

8. Ensure operations security requirements are met during all OT&E functions.

9. Act as CNO's agent for coordination and scheduling of fleet services in support of RDT&E and OT&E programs.

10. Monitor and report on other T&E efforts directed by CNO.

11. Provide recommendations to the CNO for the development of new capabilities or the upgrade of Navy ranges, test facilities, simulators and other assets used for OT&E.